

## Mayor's Message

November 2010

We need not to look very far to see examples of emergency situations. Within the last year or so in the Salt Lake Valley, there have been a variety of emergencies. Hazardous materials spills, broken gas lines, flooding of the Jordan River and the fires in the Herriman area are all examples of the types of situations that have recently occurred. Some of you will remember 2003 when a strong end-of-year storm took down power service that, in some cases, lasted for days. So, we all must ask ourselves if we are ready to deal with such a disruption to our daily routines?

As elected officials, we have the opportunity to share the lessons that are learned as we meet together. Since the Herriman fire was the most recent and involved a large evacuation, there are opportunities for us to learn from this experience. We spend time as a City working to be prepared for emergencies. We train together and have taken advantage of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the basement of Fire Station 83 to practice our skills. Murray City employees are training to be Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) certified so they can assist in emergencies at home or at the City. With the size of our City, it will be impossible for our employees to be everywhere to assist everyone. They will have responsibilities to restore basic service as soon as possible and take care of the most critical needs first.

With that being the case, I hope you will work on personal preparedness. Residents are invited to take C.E.R.T training to help as neighborhood leaders. If you are willing to do that, information on the training is available on our City webpage at [www.murray.utah.gov](http://www.murray.utah.gov) under the Fire Department. Your participation with this certification, as well as first aid courses that are available, would be valuable to you personally and to your neighbors. Something we learned from the Herriman fire was the value of having cellular phone numbers listed for Reverse 9-1-1 calls. If there were an emergency in your area, you would receive a call with information. The method for listing your contact numbers is available on our City webpage, too. Please take a few minutes to help us have a way to contact you in an emergency.

It is also important to have access to the basic essentials for your family for at least 72 hours. Excellent information is available about preparing a kit at [www.beready.utah.gov](http://www.beready.utah.gov). I hope you will take the time to visit this website and become familiar with opportunities for personal preparedness.

In 2012 a major exercise is being planned in Salt Lake County. It will simulate a mock earthquake and will give us all a chance to test the efforts we are putting forth for our City preparedness. More information will be coming as this practice event gets closer. I appreciate the work you do within your homes and neighborhoods to help us be a City ready for any unexpected challenges.